

March 9, 2022

SPONSOR TESTIMONY  
DELEGATE JOHNNY MAUTZ  
DIST. 37B – CAROLINE, DORCHESTER, TALBOT & WICOMICO COUNTIES

HB 1304—NATURAL RESOURCES—OFFSHORE BLIND SITES—LICENSING PROCESS

**Summary**

HB1304 would require the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to conduct the offshore blind site licensing in person, which is how licensing was administered prior to COVID.

**Background**

Following the onset of COVID restrictions and shutdowns, the DNR temporarily transitioned to an online administration of the offshore blind site licensing process. Prior to COVID this annual process was working without problem.

The offshore blind site program was delicately balanced among various stakeholders. It is not a universal program throughout all counties.

Changes to the program during COVID were not coordinated or open to public input.

**Rationale**

HB1304 simply restores this program to its pre-COVID processes.

**Conclusion**

We respectfully request a **favorable report of HB1304** from the Committee and thank you for considering this important legislation.